UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.3/1997/L.4/Add.3
12 February 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-ninth session
11-14 February 1997
Agenda item 17

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: G. M. CHARUMBIRA (Botswana)

Chapter _____

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CLASSIFICATIONS

(Agenda item 4)

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 483rd meeting, on 11 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/1997/4);

(b) Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics on the revised Provisional Central Product Classification (E/CN.3/1997/5);

(c) Draft Central Product Classification (Services Part; Sections 5-9) Version 1.0 (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/77 (Version 1.0) and Corr.1);

The Commission also had before it, as a background paper, "Correspondence tables linking the Provisional Central Product Classification (Provisional CPC) and the Central Product Classification, Version 1.0 (CPC Version 1.0)".

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Agreed that the Statistics Division should play a pivotal role in the coordination of economic and social classifications so as to resolve differences and encourage the harmonizing of classifications;

(b) Endorsed the recommendation that the name of the Expert Group on International Classifications be changed to Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, reflecting the decision to recognize a family of international economic and social classifications;

(c) Endorsed the development of a module on basic principles for the implementation and use of international classifications for inclusion in the Common Code of Best Practices in the United Nations System, to be drafted, circulated and reviewed at the Third Meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, to be held in 1997;

(d) Noted the need of Member States for assistance in addressing computer technology issues related to classifications;

(e) Recommended that the revised Central Product Classification (CPC) be published as Version 1.0, on the understanding that in the preface, users would be alerted to the prospect of its further improvement; and encouraged Member States to start implementing the CPC Version 1.0 and make suggestions to the Secretariat regarding future work on the revision of CPC;

(f) Emphasized the importance of developing strategies for the revision of the goods part of CPC so as to bridge the differences between all commodity nomenclatures; requested the Secretariat to seek country assistance in conducting a review of and revising the goods part of CPC; and recognized the need to continue to consult the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics and to utilize its technical expertise in the next round of revision of CPC.